



Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268-0001

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RE: Docket No. RM 2017-12

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing on behalf of the Visiting Nurse Service of New York (VNSNY), and, most importantly, the more than 30,000 patients and members we serve on any given day. We depend on the U.S. Mail to raise vital funds and connect our donors with the organization. If mail becomes too expensive, our fundraising would be dramatically reduced, as many of our donors are older and are not comfortable making gifts online. This would be disastrous to our charitable mission, and the vulnerable New Yorkers who depend on VNSNY for care they would otherwise not receive.

We simply do not understand why suddenly there is a need to increase nonprofit marketing mail rates for the nominal benefit of commercial marketing mail. This would seem to fly in the face of the rationale of the law granting nonprofits a discounted rate.

We have already built our budget for 2018, and any changes in mail costs will impact our ability to mail our donors; this means a reduction in funds raised, and in our ability to deliver charitable and community programs that improve tens of thousands of lives every year.

If our postage rates were to increase, say, 5%, and produce a corresponding 5% loss of revenue,

Please do not change the current system for calculating nonprofit rates. Implemented by the Postal Service ten years ago, we see no pressing need for a change, especially not one that will do harm to all nonprofits using the mail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "T. Traver", is written over a horizontal line.

Theodore Traver
Manager, Direct Response
Visiting Nurse Service of New York